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Gen. Goodpaster Expected To Aid Nixon

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Important Role Indicated By Service Of Other Top Military Men In Recent Years

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SPECIAL AIDES

This is still true of most officers assigned to the White House, but under the pressures of hot and cold wars, some have developed special relationships with presidents.

Goodpaster is a highly-regarded professional soldier who is on excellent personal terms with Gen. Earle Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other JCS members. There have been no complaints from the Pentagon about his indicated appointment.

But once again a new president will have to draw his own guidelines for the role and conduct of the top military member of his White House family.

He will have to try to avoid the scarcely-hidden suspicions that Gen. Maxwell Taylor provoked during the Kennedy-Johnson years.

Taylor's intimate involvement in Vietnam policy - making raised questions in military circles about his ill-defined authority. He has sat with the National Security Council in what some interpret as an infringement on the authority and responsibility of the Joint Chiefs.

Adm. Leahy, the first of World War II's five-star officers, served a function under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman far different from that of other White House military men.

Leahy was recalled as ambassador to Vichy France to become "chief of staff to the commander-in-chief." By virtue of his seniority, he sat as chairman over the wartime joint chiefs who included Adm. Ernest King, Gen. George Marshall and Gen. H. H. (Hap) Arnold. Other five-star commanders were Gen. Eisenhower, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Adm. William D. Leahy and later Gen. Omar Bradley.

Leahy's role was unique. He accompanied President Roosevelt

to virtually all the famous wartime conferences. He went with President Truman to the 1945 Potsdam meeting. He served as an active senior presidential adviser.

During his tenure, some military aides to the President were made privy to top-secret military and diplomatic reports and Central Intelligence Agency data.

These aides were not advisers. They were given access to secret information so they could answer factual questions put to them by the President.

CARE USED

"We were always very careful not to inject any personal opinion into any discussion with the President," recalls Adm. Robert L. Dennison, USN, ret., one-time naval aide to President Truman. "We simply helped keep him informed on issues and developments."

Dennison, a career officer, also served on the wartime Joint Planning Staff.

Another naval aide to Truman was Clark Clifford, now secretary of defense. Truman's Army aide, Gen. Harry Vaughn, a reserve officer, was a classic example of a man chosen because of his personal and political friendship with the President.

The Leahy role ended with enactment of the National Security Act of 1947 establishing the Defense Department structure and drawing permanent guidelines for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bradley became the first chairman of the JCS.

Dennison recalls that, at the outset, Bradley restricted the flow of information to the President's military aides, feeling that it compromised his responsibility under the new law as chief executive. The flow was

soon resumed, however, as Bradley came to appreciate that the aides were in daily contact with the President and served a briefing and liaison role and not a policy role.

"President Truman made a sharp distinction in his own mind," Dennison says.

With the election of President Eisenhower, the status of military officers in the White House again became largely ceremonial. The five-star general was intimate with military details and felt he did not require the briefings. He did, however, give special liaison and secretarial assignments to Gen. Goodpaster and to Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel, now commander of U.S. forces in Korea.

President John F. Kennedy restricted his regular military aides entirely to ceremonial functions.

AIDES COMPLAINED

"You could have been stationed in Boston, or anywhere, and just fly to Washington for the wreath-layings," was one complaint of Kennedy aides.

One of President Johnson's first moves was to sharply reduce the number of presidential military aides, although he increased the White House staff in recent years, giving Vietnam veterans of junior rank a variety of social tasks.

Gen. Maxwell Taylor, retired Army chief of staff, appeared at the White House in the wake of the Bay of Pigs fiasco of 1961. He was named to a presidential investigating committee made up of CIA Director Allen Dulles, chief of naval operations Adm. Arleigh Burke and Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

No formal report was every submitted by that committee. The committee was disbanded, Taylor stayed on as a

WASHINGTON — Ever since Fleet Adm. William Leahy moved into the White House in the early days of World War II, uncertainty has surrounded the role of flag and general officer military men attached to presidents.

Are they advisers, liaison men, political friends, gray polymaker or ceremonial figures? They have been all of these things in the last three decades.

Attention now is focused on Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, deputy commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam, who is expected to become a member of President-elect Richard Nixon's official White House family.

SERVED EISENHOWER

Goodpaster served in the White House under President Eisenhower and reportedly was recommended as an assistant to Nixon by the five-star general-president. He returned from Vietnam last month on leave and has taken part in a series of Nixon staff conferences in New York and Key Biscayne, Fla.

The uncertainty over the role of a high-ranking military officer in the White House stems from the seeming contradiction between his position and that of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who are identified by law as the chief military advisers to the President.

Too often, the mere presence of another officer at the President's elbow conjures up images of intrigue or conflict between the White House and the Pentagon.

Before World War II military aides to the President served basically social functions, escorting the chief executive, representing the White House at military ceremonies, assisting in the various protocol events in the executive mansion.

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